

CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A method for permitting access to applications, said method comprising:

registering a first restricted application with at least one additional restricted application; and

in response to a user performing only a single sign-on for said first restricted application,

providing access to said first restricted application for said user;

identifying said at least one additional restricted application accessible using said single sign-on;

presenting displaying, to said user, information identifying said at least one additional restricted application; and

in response to [[said]] a user's selection, from said displayed information, of a selected additional restricted application from the at least one additional restricted application, providing access to said [[at least one]] selected additional restricted application.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said registering further comprises:

performing a single registration for all authorized users of said first restricted application.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said registering further comprises:

performing a plurality of registrations, for a plurality of groups of authorized users of said first restricted application; and

providing an access level for each of said groups.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein:

no additional key repository is required by said restricted applications.

6. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein:
said presenting displaying further comprises said first restricted application sending a document in hypertext markup language, wherein said document includes at least one of a list or menu and wherein said at least one list or menu includes areas that are selectable by said user.
7. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said user's selection further comprises:
receiving via said first restricted application a selection signal from said user; and
in response to said selection signal, sending via said first restricted application a request for access to said at least one additional restricted application.
8. (Original) The method of Claim 7, wherein:
said user clicks a mouse button when a cursor is positioned over a predefined area of said presented information, to produce said selection signal.
9. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
collecting stored information regarding a user and an appropriate level of access;
and
sending to said user:
a token and
a redirect URL pointing to said at least one additional restricted application.
10. (Original) The method of Claim 9, wherein:
said token is encrypted; and
said token represents said appropriate level of access.
11. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein:
one of said restricted applications is at least one of an intranet web server, a portal, or a web application.

12-13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently amended) A method for permitting access to applications, said method comprising:

registering a first restricted application with a second restricted application;
[[and]]

in response to a user[[:]] signing on to said first restricted application [[only]],
identifying said second restricted application accessible using said sign-on;
displaying, to said user, information identifying a selection of said second
restricted application; and

responsive to said user requesting access to said second restricted application by
selecting from said information displayed to said user, automatically logging in to said
second restricted application, for said user[[:]], wherein[[:]] no new key repository is
required by said first and second restricted applications.

15. (Original) The method of Claim 14, wherein said automatically logging in further
comprises:

under control of said second restricted application,
receiving from said first restricted application, a request to initiate said
automatically logging in;
sending to said user's client, via said first restricted application a response, having
a complete-automatic-log-in URL, and token;
receiving directly from said user's client a request, having said token; and
sending directly to said user's client a response, having authenticated session
information, and a welcome URL.

16. (Original) The method of Claim 15, further comprising:

in response to said request to initiate,
creating said token;
storing a copy of said token; and
associating said token with said request to initiate.

17. (Original) The method of Claim 15, further comprising:
verifying said token received from said user's client; and
establishing a relationship and access level for said user's client.
18. (Original) The method of Claim 15 wherein:
said token represents an appropriate level of access.
19. (Original) The method of Claim 14, further comprising:
under control of said first restricted application,
receiving from said user's client a request for access to said second restricted application;
in response to said request for access, determining for said user, and said second restricted application, what level of access should be granted; and
sending to said second restricted application a request to initiate said automatically logging in.
20. (Currently amended) A system for permitting access to applications, said system comprising:
means for registering a first restricted application with a second restricted application; [[and]]
~~means for automatically logging in to said second restricted application, for a user, wherein:~~
~~no additional key repository is required by said first and second restricted applications; and~~
[[said]] means for automatically logging in is responsive to said user; identifying said second restricted application accessible using a user's sign-on in response to a user signing on to said first restricted application [[only.]];
means for displaying, to said user, information identifying a selection of said second restricted application; and
means for automatically logging in to said second restricted application for said user in response to said user requesting access to said second restricted application by

selecting from said information displayed to said user, wherein no additional key repository is required by said first restricted application and said second restricted application.

21. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 20, wherein said means for automatically logging in further comprises:

means for receiving from said first restricted application, a request to initiate said means for automatically logging in;

means for sending to said user's client, via said first restricted application, a response, having a complete-automatic-log-in URL, and a token;

means for receiving directly from said user's client a request, having said token; and

means for sending directly to said user's client a response, having authenticated session information, and a [""]welcome[""] URL or initial URL.

22. (Original) The system of Claim 21, further comprising:

means for creating said token;

means for storing a copy of said token; and

means for associating said token with said request to initiate.

23. (Original) The system of Claim 21, further comprising:

means for verifying said token received from said user's client; and

means for establishing a relationship and access level for said user's client.

24. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 21, wherein:

said token could represent represents an appropriate level of access.

25. (Original) The system of Claim 20, further comprising:

means for receiving from said user's client a request for access to said second restricted application;

means for determining for said user, and said second restricted application, what level of access should be granted; and

means for sending to said second restricted application a request to initiate said means for automatically logging in.

26. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium, having computer-executable instructions for permitting access to applications, said computer-readable storage medium comprising:

means for registering a first restricted application with a second restricted application; [[and]]

means for automatically logging in to said second restricted application, for a user; wherein:

no additional key repository is required by said first and second restricted applications; and

[[said]] means for automatically logging in is responsive to said user: identifying said second restricted application accessible using a user's sign-on in response to a user signing on to said first restricted application [[only.]];

means for displaying, to said user, information identifying a selection of said second restricted application; and

means for automatically logging in to said second restricted application for said user, in response to said user requesting access to said second restricted application by selecting from said information displayed to said user, wherein no additional key repository is required by said first restricted application and said second restricted application.

27. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 26, wherein said means for automatically logging in further comprises:

means for receiving from said first restricted application, a request to initiate said means for automatically logging in;

means for sending to said user's client, via said first restricted application, a response, having a complete-automatic-log-in URL, and token;

means for receiving directly from said user's client a request, having said token; and

means for sending directly to said user's client a response, having authenticated session information, and a welcome URL.

28. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 27, further comprising:

means for creating said token;

means for storing a copy of said token; and

means for associating said token with said request to initiate.

29. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 27, further comprising:

means for verifying said token received from said user's client; and

means for establishing a relationship and access level for said user's client.

30. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 27, wherein:

said token represents an appropriate level of access.

31. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 26, further comprising:

means for receiving from said user's client a request for access to said second restricted application;

means for determining for said user, and said second restricted application, what level of access should be granted; and

means for sending to said second restricted application a request to initiate said means for automatically logging in.

32. (New) The method of Claim 14, wherein:
said displaying further comprises said first restricted application sending a document in hypertext markup language, wherein said document includes at least one of a list or menu and wherein said at least one list or menu includes areas that are selectable by said user.
33. (New) The system of Claim 20, wherein:
said means for displaying further comprises said first restricted application sending a document in hypertext markup language, wherein said document includes at least one of a list or menu and wherein said at least one list or menu includes areas that are selectable by said user.
34. (New) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 26, wherein:
said means for displaying further comprises said first restricted application sending a document in hypertext markup language, wherein said document includes at least one of a list or menu and wherein said at least one list or menu includes areas that are selectable by said user.